GUYWIRE

March 2018

A monthly publication of the RARA Inc. except July and August.
If you wish to receive or be removed from the e-mailing please contact the editor/publisher at the RARA e-mail address @ ve5rara@gmail.com
NOTE: all e-mail and web addresses are active hyperlinks

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 14th @ 7:00 p.m.
Regent Place Library - Regina Market Mall - 331 Albert St.

What is your personal interest in amateur radio?

RARA Executive

President - Neil Slater - VA5SCA
Past President - Harvey Drinkle - VE5AD
Director - Justin Chapman - VA5RED
Director - Summer Hartzfeld - VE5SDH

ELECTION POSITIONS OPEN

The following Officer positions need to be filled:
Secretary - Terry White - VE5TLW
Treasurer - Allan Tidball - VE5LAT

The following Officer positions need to be filled:
Director - Con Berger - VE5CON
Director - Lyle Maystruck - VE5EE
Director - Mark Humphreys VA5LNX

The AGM is where you can offer to stand for election.
Your action to join the executive will help the RARA continue as an active club.
Please consider becoming an executive member. Your ability and initiative combined with common sense is just what is needed.

2018 Public Service Events

EVENT	DATE	ORGANIZER

UPCOMING

RPS Half-marathon - April 29-Terry VE5TLW
MS Super Cities Walk - April 29 - Richard VE5RJR
MS Bike Tour Avonlea - Aug. 18 - Richard VE5RJR

Amateur Radio In QC

QC the weekly local paper will be printing a feature on Amateur Radio in Regina in an upcoming edition.

There will be pictures and interviews with several Regina hams.

The publication date is unknown at this time.

Watch for it!

Puzzler For Last Month

If someone sent you "QTR?" what would they be asking?

Answer:
They would be asking for the time at your location.

This Month the Puzzler is:

What is a Selsyn Motor and what is it used for?

Answer next month.

Interesting Websites

Here is an interesting YouTube video account of the recent missile alarm in Hawaii and the Ham radio response.

https://youtu.be/dO09aMGMizM

Everything you\wanted to know about digital modes including illustrations can be found at:

http://hfradio.org.uk/html/digital_modes.html

What Time Is It?

What time is it? The answer would be: DX Time. It is extremely important that all Amateur Radio operators know what time it is. Not just the hour and minutes, but also the day. As Amateur Radio operators, we go by Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). It may be also referred to as Zulu Time which is designated by the capital "Z". UTC is a time standard, not a time zone. UTC time is the same throughout the world. It is not adjusted for Daylight Savings Time (DST) or any other local time adjustments. It is adjusted for leap seconds to keep the UTC clock consistent with the Earth's rotation.

AS Amateur Radio operators, we use UTC to coordinated schedules, log contacts, confirm them on QSL's and determine the start and finish of contest and other events. UTC is necessary to allow Hams worldwide to coordinate activities. Wheter you are in Regina, Saskatchewan or in Sydney, Australia, out UTC clocks will read the same.

Suppose a DXpedition on Tarawa, Western Kiribati (T30) announced that they were going to be on 160 metres at 1:30 AM local time on May 2. What time would that be for a DXer in Vancouver, BC who wanted to catch the T30 station? Looking at a world map, it seems simple enough: T30 is four time zones west of VE7 land, putting Tarawa four hours behind Vancouver. That would make it 5:30 AM in Vancouver, right?

No, because the DXer failed to consider the International Date Line. Time zones follow the Earth's rotation from east to west. T30 is not four hours behind VE7 land, it is 20 hours AHEAD.

The VE7 should have been listening on May 1 at 6:30 AM PDT and Tarawa doesn't use DST, however Vancouver does. That being the case, 6:30 AM PDT is approximately 20 minutes past Vancouver sunrise. So it is not very likely our DXer would have made the 160 metre contact.

It would have been much easier if everyone used UTC or Zulu time. DXpeditioners, DXers and Amateur Radio operators worldwide know the difference between local time and UTC. A good source for world time information is at www.timeanddate.com. Use it to set a clock in your shack to UTC and use Zulu time in all of your communications with your fellow operators.

Here in Canada, all provinces and territories except us here in Saskatchewan use DST. DST in the rest of Canada for 2018 runs from March 11 to November 4. Here in VE5 Land we are six hours behind UTC year round.

For worldwide consistency, hams use UTC or Zulu time so everyone, no matter where they are located, knows the answer to the question, "What Time Is It?"

An excellent program you can download called DXAtlas displays a world map. By pointing your cursor on a location will display the Amateur Radio callsign prefix and local time. It is available for free at: www.dxatlas.com.

Terry - VE5TLW

Unusual Callsigns

I have created a list of actual active, unusual and humorous callsigns.

They are in no particular order.

W8ATE	W0LLY	KR4P
WO0KEE	WO0L	N4STY
N4ZI	W0OL	W4XY
N4AME	W0OLY	W0W
W1NG	WO0LY	KO0K
W0NG	N0SE	K0OK
G0BI	N0OSE	K1ND
G0DBE	M0OSE	N4VY
W0RLD	G0OSE	W0RM
KN0K	W0OD	N0VA
KN0OCK	WO0D	N0MA
W1LLY	W1G	N4ME
W1LL	M1G (Russian Aircraft Type)	
W0RK	W4TER	N1LE
W1NK	WA1T	F0OL
K0OL	KR4P	PA1R
KO0L	KR0P	LA1R
WA1T	K0LA	K0LD
W4TT	W0MB	KN0X
KZ0MBI	N1CK	K1CK
	W1CK	

Terry - VE5TLW

Working The New Birds

I became interested in Satellite communications after talking with Brent VE5SWL who worked them on a regular basics. There are 2 new amateur radio satellites that are named AO-91 and AO-92. They are small and low powered but can be reached with your hand held radio. I thought it would be more enjoyable to install the frequencies into my base radio and let it scan so I didn't need the computer to find out where they are.

Turning the radio's power down to 5 watts and on the vertical antenna I should heard some signals from these birds. It didn't take long until some static and weak signals could be heard from AO-92 which got stronger as the satellite came closer to the Regina skies. Stations in Texas and Tennessee I heard giving their grid square locations along with a signal report.

Giving my call sign out brought back a couple stations and we exchanged grid squares. The pile up kept going for a few minutes and the static grew more intense as the satellite's repeater moved out of range. Contacts are extremely fast with all stations wanting to contact as many stations as possible in the short time available. (approximately 5 -7 minutes)

These birds are very easy to contact and there is always someone on the other end wanting a contact from a different grid square. There is a Doppler shift on the transmit frequency but I just left the radio in the middle of the frequency.

I find that the satellites a very interesting part of amateur radio and not much equipment is needed. The **Amsat web site** contains a lot of information and live tracking so anything you want to know is available. Give it a go and you might just get hooked on the birds.

Frequencies are as follows:

AO-91 your transmit frequency with 67 hz tone is 435.250 Mhz and your receive frequency is 145.960 Mhz.

AO-92 your transmit frequency with 67 hz tone is 435.350 Mhz and your receive frequency is 145.880 Mhz

Hope to hear you on the birds.

Lyle - VE5EE

Summer's New Bug

This bug was hand built by NA6O Gary Johnson. The tensions are magnetic and the dit contact is a magnetic switch.

Summer - VE5SDH

An amplifier is like underwear...

.....it's good to have, but you can get by without it!

Murray - VE5MC